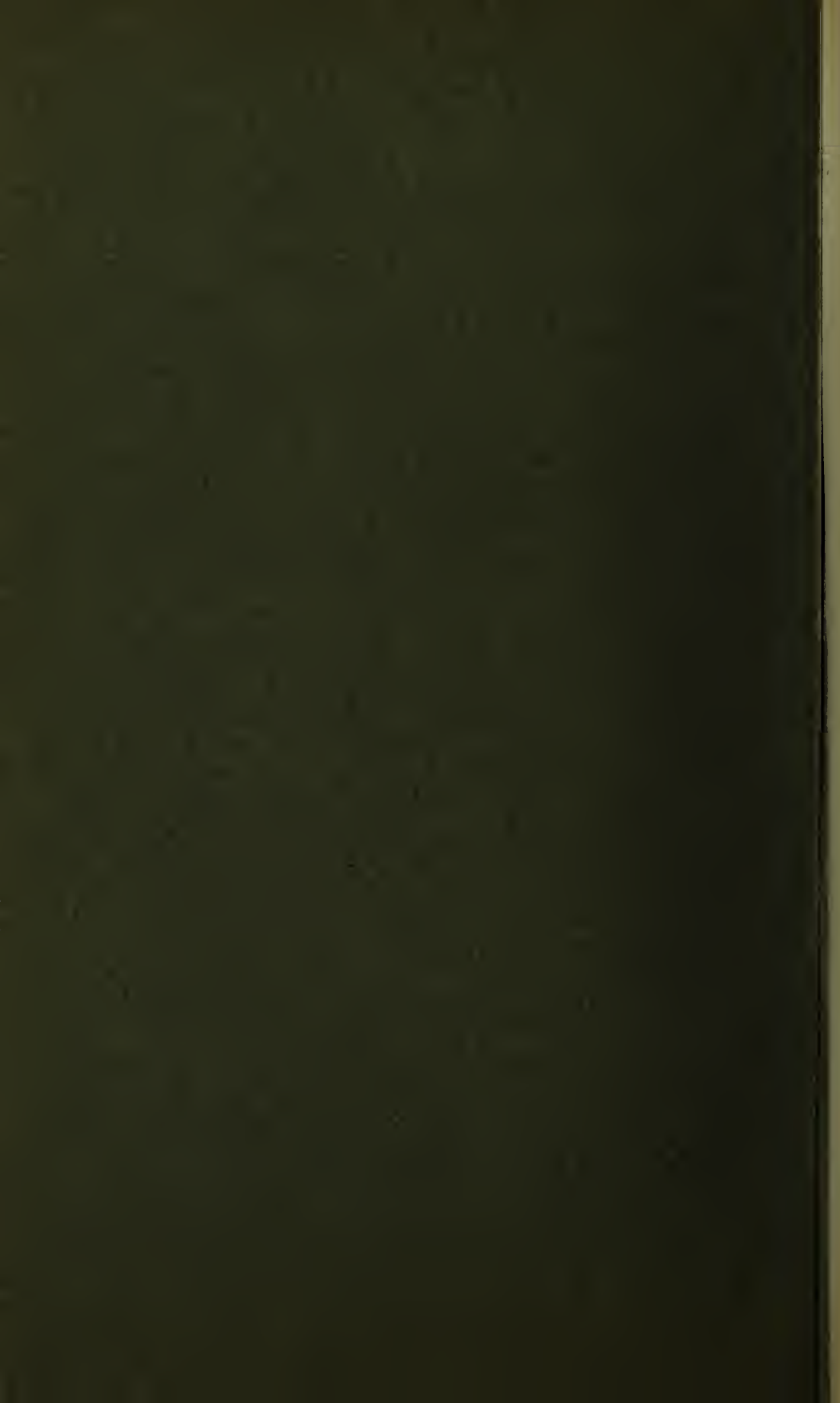


URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF DARTFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1920.

T. FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.



Urban District Council of Dartford.

Annual Report for 1920 of the Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

DARTFORD,

March, 1921.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1920.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the district for 1920 is 23,414, supplied by the Registrar General.

BIRTHS.

544 registered—an increase of 75 on 1919. Of these 273 were males, 271 females. There were 21 illegitimate births registered.

The birth rate per thousand of the inhabitants is 23.19. The birth rate for England and Wales is 25.4 and for London 26.5.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths during the year was 381, a decrease of 127 on 1919.

191 were males, 190 females. Of this number 181 were non-residents, the remaining 200 constituting the actual mortality of Dartford, affording a death rate of 8.54 per thousand of the population as compared with 10.52 in 1919. The death rate for England and Wales is 12.4.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Of the 544 children born 27 died under the age of one year, yielding a mortality rate of 49.63 per thousand born.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales is 80 per thousand births.

There were 11 still-born births.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1920 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS, REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		NETT.		Number.	Rate.	of Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.	
		Number	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1914	26210	522	23.46	612	25.35	414	20	34	65.13	218	11.54
1915	26434	481	21.53	644	24.36	404	27	42	87.31	267	12.42
1916	26598	513	22.36	505	18.72	310	47	38	74.07	242	10.54
1917	27000	405	16.86	618	22.88	362	63	19	46.91	256	10.65
1918	27000	397	16.64	758	28.07	375	49	28	70.52	383	16.05
1919	23456	469	19.99	508	22.11	271	44	25	50.3	237	10.52
1920	23414	544	23.19	381	16.27	181	43	27	49.63	200	8.54

Total population at all ages ... 23609 } At Census of 1911.
 Total families or separate occupiers ... 4312

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Urban District of Dartford is chiefly of an industrial character and is situated in one of the North-West Kent Valleys. The acreage of the district is 4,242 statute acres.

The old town and the main industrial area are situate in the valley, and the newer, chiefly residential areas, on the rising ground to the East and West.

It is bounded on the North by the River Thames and the River Darent runs through the centre of the district.

There is in addition to the ordinary population a large institutional population owing to the following institutions:—

Metropolitan Asylums Board, Joyce Green Hospital.

Metropolitan Asylums Board, Orchard Hospital.

London County Mental Hospital, Bexley.

The Dartford Board of Guardians Institution.

The Rateable Value for Poor Law purposes is £137,937, and for General District Rate, £130,592.

STAPLE INDUSTRIES.

The Staple Industries of the district are:—

Engineering.

Paper-making.

Chemical Manufactory.

Leather Tanning.

Silk Printing.

Flour Milling.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the District is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage is conveyed by the water carriage system to Long Reach and is disposed of by the West Kent Main Sewerage Board.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

About 50 houses are not connected with the main sewer and are situated in the Rural areas of the district where there is no main sewer. About 20 use earth closets and the remainder drain into cesspools.

Earth closets and cesspools are cleansed by the owners.

SCAVENGING.

A weekly collection of house refuse is made in the district and in the central portion of the town about three times a week. All refuse is disposed of in a high temperature destructor.

235 houses have brick ash-bins and as these become defective they are replaced by galvanised iron ashbins.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

443 houses have been inspected systematically during the year.

518 informal notices have been served and 45 Council Orders, and the result of such notices is as follows:—

463 informal notices have been complied with.

55 informal notices are in hand.

30 Council orders have been complied with.

10 Council orders, work in progress.

5 Council orders are in hand.

FRUIT PICKERS' HUTS.

There is only one farm where these exist. They are occupied for a short period only, and frequent visits have been paid to see that no nuisance exists.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

New Byelaws, appertaining to offensive trades, have been adopted during the year. The following is a list of the trades affected and the figure indicates the number of such premises in the district:—

Blood-boiler, blood-drier or manufacturer of manure from fish, fish offal or other putrescible animal matter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	None.
Bone-boiler	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	None.
Soap-boiler	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	None.
Tallow-melter, fat-melter or fat extractor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	None.
Tripe-boiler	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	None.
Gut-scraper	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	None.
Rag and Bone Dealer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fish-frier	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

There are also in force in the district byelaws regarding:—

Common Lodging Houses.

Nuisances.

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

Slaughterhouses.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

And Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

The Dartford Improvement Act, 1902, contains clauses relating to Drainage, Milk Supply and Infectious Diseases.

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts, 2, 3 and 5.

Adopted 2nd January, 1891.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Adopted 7th February, 1902.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Adopted 2nd October, 1912.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Sections 18, 19, 21, 22, 26 and 33 in Part 2 ...

Sections 37, 48, 50 and 51 in Part 3 ...

Sections 60, 62, 65 and 68 in Part 4 ...

Whole of Part 5 ...

„ „ Part 6 ...

Sections 79, 80, 85 and 86 in Part 7 ...

Section 90 in Part 8 ...

Section 95 in Part 10 ...

Adopted
2nd April, 1909.

Adopted
19th March, 1909.

Adopted 4th Jan. 1913.

There are no underground dwellings in the district.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

A quantity of house refuse, brought by rail from the adjoining districts of Crayford and Bexley, having been deposited in this district, representations were made to the respective authorities with a view of the abatement thereof.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

There are nine public elementary schools in the district. These are well lighted and ventilated, and the water and sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory.

FOOD SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION.

MILK SUPPLY TO THE DISTRICT.

A quarterly inspection is made by the Veterinary Inspector of the cows in the district and a report is submitted by him to the Council.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1919.

Under the above Order 29,200 pints of milk have been granted in necessitous cases free, or at less than cost price during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The slaughterhouses in the district are in a fair condition and have been periodically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector during the year. The following statement gives the number at the dates mentioned:--

	In 1914.	In January, 1920.	In December, 1920.
Registered	3	3	3
Licensed	—	—	—
	3	3	3
	=	=	=

There is no Public Abattoir in the district.

The following is a list of unsound food condemned and destroyed during the year:—

5 carcasses and 1 hind quarter of beef (tuberculous)	12 lbs. corned beef
1 box of kippers	1 case of dates
1 box of fresh herrings	2 bags of winkles
1 barrel of fresh herrings	4 cases of fresh herrings
32 rabbits	2 cases of rabbits
2 ducks	250 eggs
12 lbs. liver	8 lbs. brawn
6 cases liver	26 lbs. bacon
2 sheep	23 pork pies
72 tins of milk	8 tins of salmon
	15 tins of tomatoes

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE. CASES NOTIFIED.

561 cases of infectious disease have been notified during the year as against 662 in 1919.

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	193
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	20
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	210
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	8
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	26
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	25
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	43
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	...	<u>561</u>

DIPHTHERIA AND SCARLET FEVER.

Most of the cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the houses disinfected by either sulphur Di-oxide or Formalin Spray, and the bedding disinfected by steam.

For carrier cases the Council provide Diphtheria Vaccine free of charge to any Medical Practitioner applying for it.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

This work is carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

It would be very advantageous if Medical Practitioners were to make a freer use of the Bacteriological aid in distinguishing mild cases of Diphtheria which are apt to be overlooked.

NOTIFICATIONS FROM SCHOOLS.

The Head Teachers notify every suspected case of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever occurring in their schools.

No cleansing and disinfecting of verminous children has taken place during the year.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

There are 88 beds at the Bow Arrow Hospital for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. This accommodation has not been sufficient to meet the increased demand of the past year. Cases of Small Pox are admitted into the Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospital at Joyce Green.

TUBERCULOSIS.

28 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	26
Other forms	...	...	...	...	...	2

Of this number 5 deaths have been notified.

ENTERIC FEVER.

All the cases notified occurred at the London County Mental Hospital, Bexley.

MEASLES.

A marked decrease from last year. It was not found necessary to remove any cases to Hospital.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Only one case notified by a Medical Practitioner of a mild type with no ill effects following.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

MIDWIVES.

There are 5 midwives in the district under the control of the Kent County Council.

VISITS OF HEALTH VISITORS.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitors during the year:—

Visits	...	...	...	...	...	4216
First Visits	...	...	...	...	...	523
Ante-Natal Visits	...	...	...	...	...	197
Ophthalmia Neonatorum Visits	...	...	...	...	...	4
Measles Visits	...	...	...	...	...	17
Visits under the Milk (M. and C.) Order	...	...	...	...	...	1084

WESLEY HALL, ST. ALBAN'S AND HEATH STREET CLINICS.

The Clinics were open on 150 days.

The number of Infants registered at the Clinics during the year was 462—Boys 234, Girls 228.

Total attendances, 4,829.

Number of Mothers attending Clinics, 462.

Of the number of Infants registered, 232 were aged under three months on registration, and 100 were first-born babies. 4 were illegitimate.

NUTRITION.

363 were plump, well-covered babies.

48 showed definite signs of malnutrition.

52 were classed in a group which could not fairly be included in either of the above.

HOUSING.

The general standard of the working-class housing is fairly good. There are, however, a number of houses which ought to be dealt with by closing and reconstruction or demolition, but this work is held up by the post-war conditions and shortage of houses.

In the remainder the defects are chiefly due to the holding up of or neglect of periodical repairs during and since the War. These may be summarised as follows :—

- (1) Broken and defective yard surfaces, allowing water to stand and preventing proper cleansing.
- (2) Defective roofing, rainwater pipes, and gutters, causing dampness.
- (3) Defective pointing of outside walls, causing dampness.
- (4) Defective internal plaster (Walls and Ceilings), and dirty and loose papers.
- (5) Defective floors and other woodwork.
- (6) Broken or defective grates or ranges.

The work of dealing with these accumulated arrears of defects is being dealt with as circumstances permit.

COUNCIL'S HOUSING SCHEME.

On the Lowfield Street Site 28 houses have been erected and occupied, and it is hoped that at least 30 more will be erected in the near future.

Appended are the following :—

- (1) Appendices to Report as required by the Ministry of Health.
- (2) Résumé of work carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances during the year.
- (3) Report on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc., in the district.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

T. FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDICES AS REQUIRED BY MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	23,414
(2)	General Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	8.54
(3)	Death-rate from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	0.21
(4)	Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	49.63
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	...	4,447
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	...	3,958
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	...	...	80

UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

(1) INSPECTION.

(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	547
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910...	...	...	...	...	...	443
(c)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(d)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	518

(2) REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	463
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(3) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(1)	Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919:—						
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:—						
(i)	By owners	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(c)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(2)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—						
(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	45
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:						
(i)	By owners	...	...	...	...	...	30
(ii)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(3)	Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909:—						
(a)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

- (b) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil.
- (c) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... Nil.
- (d) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.
- (e) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Name of Area.	Acreage.	Number of working class houses in Area.	Number of working class persons to be displaced.
Bridge Court ...	.02	2	8
Bank Court ...	.02	3	10
Crown Court ...	.04	3	6
Lowfield Street and and Egan's Court	.25	15	62
Overy Street ...	.18	8	33

Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 ... 17

Staff engaged on housing work ... Duties carried out by Inspector of Nuisances in conjunction with his other duties.

RÉSUMÉ OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Houses fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	330
Visits to Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
„ „ Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
„ „ Houses where Zymotic Diseases have occurred	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	316
„ „ Stables and Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	434
„ „ Wharves	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
„ „ Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
„ „ Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
„ „ Fish and Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£4
„ „ Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
„ „ Fruit Pickers' Huts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ Fairground	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ Pig Stys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	547
Drains tested with water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
„ „ „ smoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90

NUISANCES FOUND.

Houses requiring cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	335
„ „ repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	213
„ „ ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	270
Defective cistern in W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
„ drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ eavesgutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
„ joints between flushing pipe and W.C. pan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
„ pans, etc., in W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	171
„ paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
„ roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	171
„ sink channels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ sink waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
„ ventilation pipes and inspection chambers on drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulation of Manure	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Blocked drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	219
Blocked W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Damp Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Rooms requiring ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Overflowing cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There has not been any increase in the number of Common Lodging Houses in the town.

There are three registered houses on the register.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including factory laundries)	6		
Workshops (including workshop laundries)	95		
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises included in part 3)	41		
Total	142	—	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.				
Want of cleanliness	7	7		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances	1	1		
Sanitary accommodation {				
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses ...				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	8	8		
Other offences				
Total	16	16		

